

CHAPTER 1195**PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH STUDENTS**

H.F. 2269

AN ACT relating to permissible physical contact involving students.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 280.21, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

280.21 CORPORAL PUNISHMENT — BURDEN OF PROOF.

1. An employee of an accredited public school district, accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency shall not inflict, or cause to be inflicted, corporal punishment upon a student. For purposes of this section, "corporal punishment" means the intentional physical punishment of a student. An employee's physical contact with the body of a student shall not be considered corporal punishment if it is reasonable and necessary under the circumstances and is not designed or intended to cause pain or if the employee uses reasonable force, as defined under section 704.1, for the protection of the employee, the student, or other students; to obtain the possession of a weapon or other dangerous object within a student's control; or for the protection of property. The department of education shall adopt rules to implement this section.

2. A school employee who, in the reasonable course of the employee's employment responsibilities, comes into physical contact with a student shall be granted immunity from any civil or criminal liability which might otherwise be incurred or imposed as a result of such physical contact, if the physical contact is reasonable under the circumstances and involves the following:

- a. Encouraging, supporting, or disciplining the student.
- b. Protecting the employee, the student, or other students.
- c. Obtaining possession of a weapon or other dangerous object within a student's control.
- d. Protecting employee, student, or school property.
- e. Quelling a disturbance or preventing an act threatening physical harm to any person.
- f. Removing a disruptive student from class or any area of the school premises, or from school-sponsored activities off school premises.
- g. Preventing a student from the self-infliction of harm.
- h. Self-defense.
- i. Any other legitimate educational activity.

3. To prevail in a civil action alleging a violation of this section the party bringing the action shall prove the violation by clear and convincing evidence. Any school employee determined in a civil action to have been wrongfully accused under this section shall be awarded reasonable monetary damages, in light of the circumstances involved, against the party bringing the action.

Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 280.26 INTERVENTION IN ALTERCATIONS.

1. An employee of an accredited public school district, accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency may intervene in a fight or physical struggle occurring among students or between students and nonstudents that takes place in the presence of the school employee in a school building, on school premises, or at any school function or school-sponsored activity regardless of its location. The degree and force of the intervention may be as reasonably necessary, in the opinion of the school employee, to restore order and protect the safety of the individuals involved in the altercation and others in the vicinity of the altercation.

2. A person who is not an employee of an accredited public school district, accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency may intervene in a fight or physical struggle occurring among students, or between students and nonstudents, that takes place in the presence of the nonemployee in a school building, on school premises, or at any school

function or school-sponsored activity regardless of its location. The intervention may occur in the absence of an employee of an accredited public school district, accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency, or at the request of such an employee, utilizing the degree and force of intervention reasonably necessary to restore order and protect the safety of the individuals involved in the altercation and others in the vicinity of the altercation. However, a person who intervenes in the absence of an employee of an accredited public school district, accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency shall report the intervention and all relevant information regarding the situation as soon as reasonably possible to such an employee.

3. An employee of an accredited public school district, accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency who intervenes in a fight or physical struggle pursuant to subsection 1 shall be awarded reasonable monetary damages against a party bringing a civil action alleging a violation of this section, if it is determined in the action that the employee has been wrongfully accused. A nonemployee of an accredited public school district, accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency who intervenes in a fight or physical struggle pursuant to subsection 2 shall be limited to the recovery of reasonable attorney fees and court costs, if it is determined in a civil action alleging a violation of this section that the nonemployee has been wrongfully accused.

Approved May 14, 1998

CHAPTER 1196

HEALTHY AND WELL KIDS IN IOWA PROGRAM

H.F. 2517

AN ACT establishing a healthy and well kids in Iowa (HAWK-I) program to provide health insurance to eligible children, providing for a repeal, and providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. NEW SECTION. 432.13 PREMIUM TAX EXEMPTION — HAWK-I PROGRAM.

Premiums collected by participating insurers under chapter 514I, are exempt from premium tax.

Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 514I.1 INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1. It is the intent of the general assembly to provide health care coverage to eligible children that improves access to preventive, diagnostic, and treatment health services which result in improved health status using in part resources made available from the passage of Title XXI of the federal Social Security Act.

2. It is the intent of the general assembly that the program be implemented and administered in compliance with Title XXI of the federal Social Security Act. If, as a condition of receiving federal funds for the program, federal law requires implementation and administration of the program in a manner not provided in this chapter, during a period when the general assembly is not in session, the department, with the approval of the HAWK-I board, shall proceed to implement and administer those provisions, subject to review by the next regular session of the general assembly.

3. It is the intent of the general assembly, recognizing the importance of outreach to the successful utilization of the program by eligible children, that within the limitations of